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September 30, 1904

2004

CHINA.

*Report from Fuchau—Epidemic plague.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon White forwards the following, received from Consul Gracey under date of August 8:

There is now existing in the native city at this port an epidemic of plague. It is quite impossible to obtain any statistics relative to the number of deaths or cases, but I am informed by the medical officer of the port that the number of cases is quite large.

This epidemic is at present confined almost entirely to the native city, which is situated 3 miles from the island of Nantai, where the foreign hongs are situated, and from which the cargo is shipped. Ships loading at Fuchau anchor at Pagoda anchorage, 10 miles below the city, and I am informed by the medical officer at that port that there is no plague existing in that district.

*Reports from Shanghai—Smallpox—Experiments in the viability of the cholera organism.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports, August 18 and 23, as follows:

During the week ended August 13, 1904, 1 supplemental and 2 original bills of health were issued, and there were inspected 3 vessels, 131 crew, and 3 steerage passengers. Four cases of illness on board vessels were investigated, all of which proved to be nonquarantineable disease. There were also investigated 2 cases suspicious of smallpox, which occurred on a vessel from Manila that had been repairing here for about four months. The patients were adults, and were sick with an eruptive disease for about three weeks.

The cases had been diagnosed chicken pox. In view of the length of the illness and the numerous visible pits on face and arms, it was deemed best to fumigate the living quarters and clothing of these men, as well as that of the other members of the crew who had been allowed to mingle freely with the patients. There were disinfected 51 crew and the forecastles, forehold, and second cabin of 1 vessel. Manifests were viséed for 17,531 pieces of freight; 2 pieces of freight were inspected and passed.

The weekly report of the municipal health officer shows smallpox 2 deaths, enteric fever 3 cases, diphtheria 4 deaths, tuberculosis 26 deaths. The total mortality was 7 foreigners and 159 natives.

While cholera is absent from the weekly report of the municipal health office, I am certain that it is still present, and I am using every effort to ascertain to what extent.

I note in the Public Health Reports that Assistant Surgeon Moore at Yokohama reports smallpox epidemic at Tientsin. I have no report from that port for the period May 28–June 4, the period covered by Dr. Moore's report, but under date of June 25, 1904, consul-general reports no quarantinable disease present. I have written to inquire about the matter. Smallpox is said to be epidemic in the Russian army in Manchuria.

There were no quarantinable diseases reported from other outports.